

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**COUNTRY** Austria/South Tyrol

**DATE:** 25X1A6a

**SUBJECT** Austro-Italian Socialist Conference in Innsbruck  
25X1A6a

**INFO.**

**DIST.** 30 October 1947

**PAGES** 2

**ORIGIN**

**SUPPLEMENT**

25X1X6

1. The frequently postponed conference between Italian and Austrian Socialists, which was originally to be held in Bolzano, finally took place in Innsbruck on 14 September 1947. On the Italian side only the Nenni group was represented; Luzzatto headed the delegation. The Austrians were represented by three Socialist leaders from Vienna, including Dr. Pittermann, and three local Socialists, including Dr. Kunst, the expert on South Tyrol. Representatives of the South Tyrolean Socialist Party also attended.
2. To the surprise of the Austrians, the fullest agreement was reached on the optants' question. The main points of this agreement were the following:
  - a) The Hitler-Mussolini Agreement should be declared null and void;
  - b) No distinction should be made between the various categories of optants (those who remained in South Tyrol, those who left it, those who received German nationality papers, those who did not);
  - c) Optants who had not left South Tyrol should submit a declaration to their local mayor, stating that they wish to retain their Italian nationality; the declaration should be presented within one month of the settlement coming into force;
  - d) Optants who had left South Tyrol should submit this declaration to the nearest Italian diplomatic representative within one year of the settlement coming into force, or to the local mayor within one week of returning to South Tyrol;
  - e) The Italian Government would have authority to refuse Italian nationality to certain heavily compromised optants (war-criminals, etc.), provided it gives notice of this intention within one month of the expiration of the time-limit for submitting the declaration

In such cases proper legal proceedings would be instituted before a mixed South Tyrolean and Italian Commission, headed by a senior judge. The prosecutor would be the public prosecutor in Bolzano, and the optant concerned would be given every chance to defend himself. The Italian Socialists further agreed that the South Tyroleans should be represented by a majority on this mixed Commission, but for tactical reasons insisted that this concession should for the time being be kept strictly secret.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Review Date: 2008

Document No.

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

CHANGED TO:

Auth: DDA Memo 1 Apr 79

Date: 20 APR 1978 By: OK

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3. Luzzatto stated that the Italian Communists and the Saragat Socialists would consent to the above agreement, and that he was consequently convinced that a majority favoring it could be found in the present Parliament in Rome.
4. Before deciding on the necessary tactics with which to ensure the adoption of a settlement along the above lines, Luzzatto stated that Nenni wished to discuss the question with the leaders of the other parties.
5. It was agreed to postpone any formal discussion of the autonomy question to a later date. Nevertheless, Luzzatto stated that the Nenni Socialists favored a provincial, rather than a regional, autonomy. As, however, all the other Italian parties favored a regional autonomy, they would probably withdraw their opposition to a regional autonomy, provided proper provision was made to guarantee the South Tyroleans' ethnical rights as formulated by the South Tyroleans themselves. According to Luzzatto, the Christian Democrats would advance a proposal denying the Trentinians any form of autonomy, if the South Tyroleans insisted on a provincial autonomy.

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 50, U.S.C. 31 and 32 as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY